812
L85g

Long, Walter S

Contents

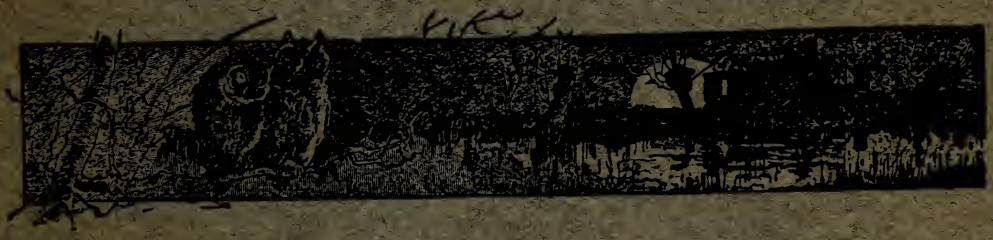
Ghoses er not ghoses.
When de womenfolks debate.

GHOSES ER NOT GHOSES.

A Negro Debate.

BY

WILLIAM S. LONG.



PRICE 15 CENTS

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Franklin, Ohio

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MUSICAL SKETCHES FOR YOUNG LADIES

By Harry C. Eldridge

These fill an urgent need in supplying musical numbers with action, for any secular program, for girls or ladies of any age. Clever words and singable music combined to make novel numbers for your entertainment.

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE

Franklin, Ohio

Ghoses Er Not Ghoses.

A Negro Debate

By WILLIAM S. LONG.

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE,
FRANKLIN, OHIO

QUESTION:— "Resolved, Dat dar Aint No Ghoses."

DEBATERS:

Affirmative	Negative
Solomon Moses Beelzebub	Daniel Daemon Caesar
George Washington Brown	Hannibal Hanted Holmes

OFFICERS:

President—Hon. Wilson Roosevelt Taft.

Vice-Presidents { Dr. Sawyerhaidoff Right
Rev. David Jeremiah

Marshalls { Col. Joseph Abraham
Col. Marcus Pompey

JUDGES:

(Names of local persons serving as Judges.)

TIME:

(Date and Hour of Entertainment)

PLACE:

(Place of Entertainment)

812
L85g

Ghoses Er Not Ghoses.

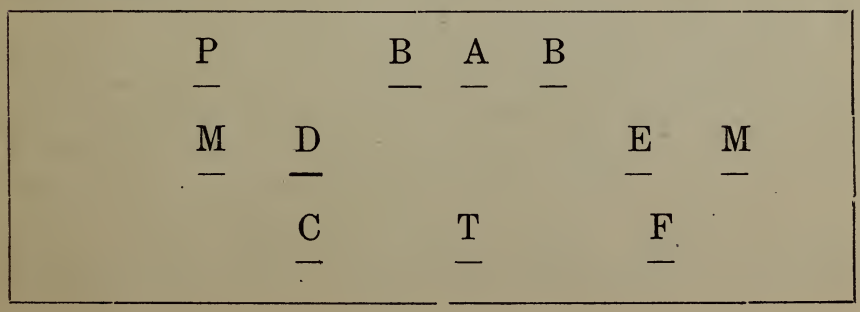
This darkey programme requires seven persons to which number may well be added two marshalls, a pianist, and, if thought advisable, three judges. The director in each case should be the judge of the kind and extent of stage setting, as this may be arranged in various effective ways.

The costumes of the debaters and officers, and judges, may be ragged, funny, or would be dignified, as desired. It is suggested that each should wear a high hat, which may be easily made by sewing a high cardboard crown around a derby hat and covering it with black cloth. The Vice-Presidents should each have a large alarm clock fastened with an enormous chain. As timekeepers they should refer to these *watches* frequently. In the delivery of the debate itself, some of the speakers may make their parts very effective by falling occasionally into the loud and varied singsong of the old negro preacher. The dialect should be noticed closely and a lazy drawn maintained at all times.

At the conclusion of the debate, the judges, if in costume, should retire to a corner and have a noisy conference, after which the chairman should announce the decision.

ARRANGEMENT OF CAST ON THE ROSTRUM.

a—President
b—Vice-Presidents
c—1st. on Affirmative
d—2nd. on Affirmative
e—1st. on Negative
f—2nd. on Negative
m—Marshalls
t—Table (Speaker's Stand)
p—Piano



President's Speech.

Ladies an' Gemmens:—

Yuh hab been called ter dis hyah congregation ter witness an'approve de acktions an' de arguments uv er gret *de*bate. De Colleges deyselves is sholy enormous an' de question are profound. De powers whar wuz is tremblin wid de oncartainty uv de contes, an Mt. Dumplin College is willin an almos' anxious ter fly at de figgerative throat uv de University uv Chinkerpinneck. De question fur dis concussion are "Resolved, Dat dar aint no ghoses."

De gemmens whar will uncork de thunder and dip out de lightenin fer dese renounded institutions is: Fur de Firmative, Mistah Solomon Moses Beelzebub and Mistah George Washington Brown; fur de Negative we will extricate Mistah Daniel Daemon Caesar an Mistah Hannibal Hanted Holmes.

We will now hab de fus speaker fur de Firmative, Mistah Beelzebub.

First Speech On The Affirmative.

Mistah President, most wise Jedges, Men an Wimminfolks:

It hab done been agreed upon an resolved dat we is to argufy upon de gret important question dat dar aint no Ghoses. Honry Jedges, as Ah considerate upon de gret issues what are dependin upon dis hyah question, mah feelins trembles lak de rod of Aaron an mah voice it blossoms lak er load uv mud.

Mistah President, lat mah ax yall ter grab carefully at de sollem fack dat de proof uv dis hyah resolution do not interfere wid de gret religiousology what hab done transpired alongside uv de childhood uv our race. When dis hyah affirmative undertakes ter prove dat dar aint no ghoses, we means dose ghoses whar niggers say sometimes peramputate aroun de churchyards at night. We aint a-talkin

erbout de angels uv de Lawd. We means dead men's ghoses. Dat are de thing whar we say—dey aint. An in order ter prove dis hyah statement, ah'se agwine ter think out de unthinkable, explain de inexplicable, search out the unsearchable, and unscrew de unscrutable. Ah'se agwine ter tar down de eberlastin an eternal foundations uv dis ole surrepstition an throw it outen de do.

Ah appeals ter yall intelligent cullud folks ter remember de gret wurds uv Isaiah when he say "Be ye not afeered when de night come on, jes' hang erround de church." Hyah is yo proof dat dar aint no ghoses. How cud er nigger hang erround er church an not git skeered ef ghoses ralely walked erround? Yas suh, dis hyah talk erbout ghoses is all er fake. Ef men's ghoses did come back ter arth, den in wartime de side whar hab de mos men killed in de fus fight wud be boun ter win bekase de ghoses uv dose daid men wud flop back ter arth when night come on an wallop de life outen de other army. In case dar aint no ghoses. Lawd-a-messy folks; ef yall axually believed dat ghoses walked erroun, all de money in mah pocket hyah cuddent pay er single black man in dis hyah crowd ter leab dis place ternight.

An more'n dat, Ah'll bet dat not one single nigger in dis hyah house wud go out by hisself aftah chickens at night ef he thought dar war enny danger uv ghoses trackin him home. Doan tell me erbout your ghoses, Ah eats dem things. Ah hired er ghose one time fur fifty cent er week ter clean up mah house, an she nebber did clean it up. 'Twuz all er fake. 'Twarnt no sech thing as dat ghose whar Ah wuz talkin ter. She wuz er lyin all de time. Ah knowed er man one time whar advertised fur er ghose in de (Name of a local paper) ter kindle fires fur him, an not one single, er double ghost appeared. An yall mus showly know dat fire is one kin uv truck whar all ghoses keep in stock.

Honery Jedges yall heern tell uv hanted houses and dey is all er fake. Ah knowed er house one time

dat all de niggers wuz skeered uv kase de heered noises in dar at night. So I went in dar one night an run er whole flock uv sheep out. Dey had been roostin dar nigh on ter twelve munts. One time down hyah in de woods jest dis side uv Richardsville dar wuz er little cabin whar all de niggers thought wuz hanted by er ghose dat grunted all night long. Ah went in dar one night, jes kinder prospectin er-roun, an foun er ole pinerooter sow an nine pigs. Dat hawg war sholy some ghose. Dose folks ober dar doan know nothin, dey is ignoramuses.

Honry Jedges, dis hyah argument proves dat dar aint no ghoses. But dis hyah big black partner uv mine will more'n prove it. He hab got er argerment whar will shake de dus' outen dis hyah platform an blow de nails offen yo eyelids. Den Mistah President jes watch dem enemies uv ouren ober dar gib up dis hyah scramble an turn into sperits deyselves. Ah thanks yall verykindly fur yer respectabul attenchun.

President. We will now listen ter de fus speaker on de Negative, Mistah Caesar.

First Speech On The Negative;

Mr. President, Dishonorable Jedges, Menfolks an Ladies:

Mah opponent whar hab jes preceded me hab already worn de fringe offen mah patience up ter an oncludin de quick uv mah anger. He axuly tries ter make yall blieve dat dar ain't no ghoses. Yit Ah'll bet de shine offen mah boots dat he wudden kill er chicken ef he thought its ghose wud hab er chance ter rise. Dat ar nigger he jes talk like er dat ter make yall white folks believe he ain't skeered. Ef dese hyah lights wud go out rale sudden lak we'd hab ter choke his tongue outen his head ter keep him frum er swallerin his brains.

Ah'd er jes lak ter hab had him out wid me one night las winter. 'Twuz er cold, nasty, mean, rainy night an Ah wuz er trabblin across ole Swamppoodle

farm frum Carrico's Mill. An when Ah come close ter dat old hanted cabin up on de hill in de Locus' Grove, Ah jes say "look hyah nigger hyah's de place fur yuh ter stop," so Ah jes went in an lit er little smoke in de chimbly, an stretched out on de flo ter dry mah guarments. It felt so good in dar dat Ah jes kinder dozed off lak, an Lo, an Behole! Ah see mah Granpap's ghose er grinnin in de winder. Den er big black tomcat jumped inter dat room frum jes nowhar in extickleyou, an wropped he tail erroun dat lamp, an say kinder lonesome lak "Ain't no one in hyah cept me an yuh, is dar?" Ah sorter sneaked erround ter de do an called back kinder farwell lak, "An we won't be hyah long." Mistah President, dat war sholy *some* race. Finnally Ah thought dar ar ghose war clar lef behin. So Ah jest kinder leaned ober on de side uv de road an lowed as how Ah'd wait fur mah breaf ter ketch up. But stid uv breath de fus thing Ah saw wuz dat same black cat. It kinder sneaked up an grinned up in mah face lak er barboon an said rale flatterin lak, "Nigger, yuh sho kin run." Dat war jes on de yudder side uv ole Mount Dumplin. Lawd-a-Mussy, black folks, Ah jes raised up lak er flyin machine an told dat cat "Yuh ain't seen no runnin yit." Ah runned all de way roun Mount Pony, down fru de Flatgrouns, an back ter Chinkerpinneck. Dat war fifty-five miles in sebenteen minnits. An ef Ah haddent seed some chickens in er tree down dar Ah'd be er-runnin yit. An be er-talkin er-bout dar ain't no ghoses.

Mistah President, Ah axes yall ter remember dat all de gretest men uv de wurld hab been skeered uv ghoses. Recollecshun dat little village dat Shakespere tells er-bout whar he seed his Father's ghose, Ah means Ham-let. Mahcussed Antony seed de ghose uv Brutus when Caesar died. Ichabod Crane sot ole Gunpowder on fire when er ghose got arftah him. An ef mah enemy ober dar thinks he sees er chance ter win dis hyah debate, what he sees are jes er ghose uv er chance—de chance died long er-go.

Honry Jedges, don't yall blieve dat dar ain't no

ghoses. Ef dar ain't no ghoses, den dar ain't no Heben. Fur er ghose ez er sperit an ef daid men ain't sperits den dar ez nuffin lef ter go ter Heben. Ah beseeches yall ter recollecshun de sollem wurds uv de good Book whar it say dat ef man lives right on dis hyah arth den his sperit will go ter Heben when he die, an ef he lives wrong his sperit will go ter—contrawise direction. Honry Jedges Ah stands er-pon dis hyah lofty prederlection uv defense fer de wurds uv dat ar Book. What it say are jes boun ter be de Gawspul truf. Now showly mah opponents don't want yall ter misunderstood dem ter say dat er sperit cud stay down in dat ar contrawise place all de time. An ef he come away frum Torment sometime, den he are jes boun ter come up ter de arth ter git er-way frum it. Den ef he do come ter de arth, he know he kaint be killed er-gen, he ain't skeered uv no one, so what de tarnation gwine ter keep him frum showin hisself ter some one ef he want ter? Dats what Ah axes yuh! Incose dar is ghoses!

Honry Jedges, Mah complice will finish fur de Negative, an when he gits done excruciatin er-pon de tarnal presence uv ghoses in de ar, Ah'll bet mah ole hat dat dose smyart niggers ober dar will be skeered ter peep out de do. Dis am respectably submitted.

President De nex speaker are de second on de Firmative, Mistah Brown.

Second Speech On The Affirmative;

Mistah Jedges, Dishonorable gentlemen, Ladies an President:

Ah hab heered dat black man talk until mah nose ez erbout ter bleed fur disappointment. Yuh see, Ah thought he war gwine ter say something—an he didden't. Mah colleague hab done showed yuh dat we ain't ergwine ter discuss ligion in dis hyah debate. He hab also showed yuh dat de Bible proves as how dar kaint be no ghoses kase de Prophet tells de nig-

ger not ter git skeered at night but jest hang erroun de church.

Now Honry Jedges, Ah will show yuh dat de laws uv de lan proves dat dar kaint be no ghoses. Eben mah ponents ober dar mus know dat de laws uv de Uninty States say pintedly dat ef one man kill er nother man dat man mus be hung up by de neck until he are daid. Now ef dat fus daid man axually did turn inter er ghose what wud be de use uv hangin dat other nigger. Why Mistah President, don't yuh know dat fus ghose wud hant de life outen de nigger what killed him, on de fus night aftah de killin. Uv cose he wud. De law wuddent hab no chance a tall in dat next killin.

Dis hyah nigger whar tole erbout seein dat ar ghose ober on Swamppoodle done fergit somepen. He ain't tole us yit how come he happen ter be ober dar at dat lonesome place at dat time er night. Seems lak he'd be skeered ter let Squire——(*Give name of some local police official*) heer him tell bouten dat. An moren dat mah frens, jes twis down in yo pipe dis hyah sollem fack also, dat war his conscience what he seed, an Ah specks it war er chicken what he heered.

Don't tell me bouten yo ghoses. Ah hab c'lected chickens at ebery hour in de night, an Ah neber yit hab seed er ghose. Ah uster hab er job skimmin moonbeams offen tombstones at night. An ebery night Ah'd ramble roun de grave yards an jes dar de ghoses ter stir, an dey war all so skeered dat de grass wud tremble roun mah feet. Dar warnt no ghoses in dose graves, believe muh, Ah knows.

Mistah President, ef dar war enny sech thing as ghoses ebery body wud want ter be er ghose. All uv yuh folks wud remit susanside so as how yuh'd cud turn inter er ghose an porteck yoselves frum oder ghoses. Jes think now how nice it wud be ef we cud all jes sorter swim out on de atmosphere arter chickens an be atmosphere ourselves. An jes take yo time pickin out de bes chickens in de hinhouse, an ef de boss shud come out wid er gun an shoot holes in de climate whar yuh wuz, yuh cud jest laf at him fit ter

kill, an fill up dose holes in de climate wid mo weather. Den yuh cud git shot an not be shot, kinder stay sober so ter speak. Dis hyah argerment proves dat dar ain't no ghoses, kase all dese things what Ah say dey is, dey ain't.

Honry Jedges, Yall mus remember dat de Bible proves dat dar ain't no ghoses. Yall mus membertoo dat nature proves dat dar ain't no ghoses, yall mus member also dat de law it proves dar ain't no ghoses, an bove all uv dese yall mus member dat it am clar pas de limitations uv commonsense ter spose dat er livin sperit cud descend up outen er daid man's body an scare er live man offen de arth. What's de use uv dyin ef yuh ain't gwine ter stay daid? Ah appeals ter yall as men uv judgement ae eckerty ter sot de stamp uv ye omnipotious influence an authority agin de surrepstitious ignorance whar hab so long hel our race in de darkness uv respair. Ah appeals ter yall to call down de might an vengeance uv a eberlastin misapprobation erpon all whar say dat what we call ghoses is ghoses. Ah appeals ter yall ter plant right hyah de civerlizing seeds an benediction uv a new philosopholosophy which will some day bloom up er monstrous crap uv tongues uv fire whar will wave lak silent monuments uv hope frum ebery mountain top, an shout frum ebery darkest valley, "Dar ain't no Ghoses."

President We will now hab de las speaker fur de Negative, Mistah Holmes.

Second Speech On The Negative;

Ladies an Gentlemen, Men an Wimmin, Niggers an Whitefolks Mah honry complice hab proved ter yall dat dar is sech er thing ez er ghoses, an now it are lef fur me ter double prove it. Dis hyah fren ob mine tol yall bouten one uv his little speriments wid er ghose. Ah has er little case in mine what are jes ter de pint. One night erbout two o'clock Ah war trottin erlong by de whitefolks church jest dis side er Stevensburg wid erbout ten dollars in mah pocket whar

Ah had jes winned in er crap game. Ah had er bran new Smith an Weston gun in mah hippocket, an as Ah started inter de ole place, whar dey called Wicked Bottom in dose days, er thinkin erbout how safe dat money war, when right sudden lak Ah seed er gret big ghose right in de road in front uv muh. Ah turned bery politely an started ter retreat unanimously in de yudder d'rection. But dat ar doggoned ghose flopped roun in fronten me ebery time Ah'd turn erroun. Den Ah drawed er bead on dat ghose wid dat new gun uv mine An Lawd hab Mussy, instid uv shootin dat ghose it jes busted all ter smoke in mah hans. Den Ah jes collided wit dat ghose—jes busted fru him so ter speak—Bless yo soul mah honey! Honery Jedges, dat ar ghose blowed up lak steam all roun. Upon mah wurd uv honor as er white man, dat ar ghose wuz so hot dat he singed all de whiskers offen mah face. An dey ain't growed up yit either. Mah pardner hab done tole yuh erbouten de race whar he had wid er ghose. But Ah tell yuh now mah frens he don't no eben er little bit bouten runnin. Ah wore out three par uv bran new brogan shoes in sebenty-five miles dat night. Dat ghose didn't stop follerin me till he had plumb cooled off. But now take it frum mah, Ah hadn't cooled off enny a tall.

Er nother time Ah wuz trabblin outen de Wilderness jes dis side uv Fredericksburg, an Ah hadn't more'n crossed the Rappannock ribber an started up de high hill dar into Chinkerpinneck, when bless yo sweet life Ah seed the consarndest ghose Ah ever did hear tell uv. He had three bodies and seventeen haids, all jined together.—Don't yuh tell no body, but Ah thought mah time had come. Ah jes cuddent git mah hind feet ter try ter run away frum dat ghose. De fack is dat Ah jes kinder settled down alltergether, an de nex thing Ah knowd Ah wuz down on mah knees an then Ah begin ter talk ter de Lawd erbout conditions in general an dat ar ghose in extickleyou. Mistah Gemmens, Ah believes dat ghose war de gret-gran-pap uv all de ghoses. One uv dose sebenteen faces kinder grinned at muh lak

de Old Boy hisself. Ah den tole de Lawd dat Ah neber wud steal enny mo chickens, dat Ah'd eben drap all dose dat Ah had on mah back. Ah told him dat Ah neber wud shoot enny mo crap. Ah tole him ef he'd jest fergive me fur all mah ole sins Ah'd neber sin no more. An den dose haids begin ter stop dere shinin lak fire, an soon Ah cud see clar thru whar dat ghose had been. Ah didn't lak ter leab dose chickens behin in sech er lonesome place as dat, so Ah jes cided Ah'd postpone mah bargain wid de Lawd fur er mo convenient time. Ah haddent pulled my speed up ter more'n erbout two miles er minnit when, Lawd Bless yo life de biggest rooster in dat bag clar fergit dat he war gagged aud hollered out rale impudent lak, "Look a-hyah, nigger, take me back down yonder!" Now honnes Mistah President, Ah diddent want ter break mah bargain wid de Lawd, but dat wuz axin too doggone much uv enny nigger. Ah jes compromised by depositing dat whole bag uv chickens right dar in de road. Believe mun, mah feet wuz er-workin den.

Honry Jedges, Ah axes yall ter recollection dat all history it proves dat dar is ghoses; recollection dat all de gretes men uv all times hab seed ghoses. De Bible itself are as full uv ghoses ez er nigger churchyard at night. De berry nature uv man tells us dat he leabes hyah arftah death, an our own speriments tells us time arftah time dat he don't always stay away. Ah blieves dat de whole future exculpation uv de instinct uv man are dependin on dis hyah question tonight. Tharfore, Dishonorable Judges, it ez up ter yall ter set yo answer down so clar an loud dat all de world kin hyeer. It ez up ter yall ter prove ter all succeeding venerations dat dis hyah instinct uv man hab not gone wrong, an dat what we calls ghoses is ghoses, one an unmistakable, *e plubusted unum*, world widout end, Amen. Ah Thanks all uv yuh, suh.

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE

Franklin, Ohio

RELEASED FOR AMATEUR PRODUCTION.

"The Little Politician"

By SEYMOUR S. TIBBALS

A COMEDY IN FOUR ACTS

SEVEN MALES AND THREE FEMALES

THIS play was produced professionally for several seasons under another title, and is now released for amateur production without royalty and without restrictions of any kind. The scenery and costumes are simple. Time, about two hours. A young society girl plays an important part in overthrowing a corrupt political boss and brings about the election of her fiance. The race for the hand of a wealthy widow by rival suitors furnishes the comedy. A pretty story is unfolded, but without actual love-making or any scenes objectionable to the amateur. Recommended for high schools and dramatic clubs.

☞ The garden party in the second act affords opportunity for the introduction of any number of characters.

PRICE, 25 CENTS

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE

Franklin, Ohio

When De WOMENFOLKS DEBATE

BY

WALTER S. LONG

PRICE 15 CENTS

Eldridge Entertainment House

Franklin, Ohio Denver, Colo.

A HIT ON YOUR NEXT PROGRAM!

Something Out of The Ordinary In High-Class Humorous Songs.

MUSICAL SKETCHES FOR YOUNG LADIES

By Harry C. Eldridge

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE

Franklin, Ohio

WHEN DE WOMENFOLKS DEBATE.

A Darkey Sketch for Women or Men
Impersonating Female Characters.

By WALTER S. LONG.

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE,
FRANKLIN, OHIO. DENVER, COLO.

PROGRAMME

QUESTION:—"RESOLVED—Dat de Womenfolks ain't got no Right ter Vote in Missibamgia."

DEBATERS:

Affirmative	Negative
Minerva Daisy Washington	Deborah Exzema Johnsing
Dinah Jackson Smith	Esther Hannah Brown

OFFICERS

President—Mary Virginia Josephine Haden.

Vice-Presidents { Anthenelia Hazeltine Sims
Carrie Nation Clatterbuck }

Marshalls { Lavinia Cornelia Muddiman
Julia Davis Taliaferro }

JUDGES

(Name of Local Persons acting as Judges)

TIME

(Date and Hour of Entertainment)

PLACE

(Place of Entertainment)

When De Womenfolks Debate

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Men an Wimmen, Big Folks and Little Folks:

Yuh is hyah ternight ter sarve de functions uv jedge an jury in the gret debated case uv RIGHT varsus WRONG. Which one ob dese are de plaintiff and which am de 'fendent mus' be decided upon hyah by y'all ternight. Ter yo sollem desideration will be handed out de pondigerous argerments both con an' pro—for an' ergin.

De question fur debate an' yo consideration are "Resolved,—Dat de Wimmenfolks ain't got no Right ter Vote in Missibamgia." De R. S. V. P. P. D. Q. Sisters uv Dorcas Sewing Society will maintenance de Firmative uv dis hyah argerment, while de Negative will be persecuted by de Wimmen's True Reformer's League uv Missibamgia.

De ladies what will ladle out de shrapnel an' spill de torpedoes is: Fur de Firmative Miss Minerva Daisy Washington an' Miss Dinah Jackson Smith. Fur de Negative, Ah is mo'rn pleased ter interjuce Miss Deborah Exzema Johnsing an' Miss Esther Hannah Brown.

We will now hab de fus' speaker fur de Firmative, Miss Washington.

FIRST ON THE AFFIRMATIVE

Missis President, Honry Jedges, Niggers an' Whitefolks:

Ah is mighty glad fur er opportunity ter speak ter y'all at dis hyah time an' on sech er portant occasion. In dese stormy days when all de wimmen seem ter be crazy on de subject uv votes, Ah is glad ter say dat Ah 'longs ter dat ar noble band uv patriots whar y'all calls Anti-Sufferyets. An' Ah wants ter 'nounce right hyah now dat Ah isn't none uv dem ar halfway, no count, po white trash Oncle-Sufferyets, neither. Ah is loyal ter de gret big stairs an' stripes uv dese hyah Uninety States. An' Ah

Gen. Res. Hewitt 16 March 56 Univ. Fl. Bk. Shop.

lubs de peace an' happiness in all de homes uv dis hyah gret state uv Missibamgia. Dar am de reason whar Ah am hyah ternight, and dar is why Ah hab done "Resolved,—Dat wimmenfolks ain't got no Right ter Vote in Missibamgia."

When Ah tempts ter spress ter y'all de history uv dis hyah question all de pride Ah eber hab felt in de glory uv wimmenhood are shaken an' umbled. Ah feels lak it are too shameful ter talk erbout. Ah wants ter tell dem ar wimmen ober dar, Yuh neber is satisfied. Yuh neber will be satisfied. Why doan yuh go on home an' try ter put up wid what de good Lawd hab done gib yuh? Mah frens, jes' think uv it er minnit. Hyah is ax'ylly wimmen wantin' ter vote. An de wust thing uv all erbouten it are dat dey is willin' an ready ter raise er row erbout it too. Dey has talked erbouten votes untell y'all wu'd think dey raly knowed what er vote are, wuddent yuh? Dey has blamed de men fur all de troubles dey eber has had an clar fergits dat de good Lawd made de men.

Now in dis hyah concussion ternight Ah wants ter sot plainly befo y'all er clar understandin' uv what dis hyah question means. By de tex' uv de resolution y'all kin see dat it 'fers ter *rights,* it 'fers ter *votes,* it 'fers ter *Wimmenfolks,* an' all uv dese right hyah in *Missibamgia.* Now ter fix de meanin' still mo clarer in yo min's jes' recollection dat it simply means dat wimmenfolks mussent vote in Missibamgia, an' dat is all us on de Firmative is hyah ter prove. In provin' de troof uv dis hyah resolution we 'spectfully offahs ter yo consideration free fundermental pints uv interest. Fustly, dat dar ain't no use in makin' er change; secondly, dat dis hyah votes fur wimmen is as wusser'n jes' simply votes fur men; an' thirdly, dat in itself, wimmen sufferage wu'd be er gret mistake. Ah will prove de fus' uv dese, an' mah pardner will more'n prove de udder two.

Ah now axes y'all ter fix yo 'tention on de sollem fack dat dar ain't no use in makin' dis hyah change. What y'all wimmen fussin' erbout? Doan yuh git ernough ter eat? Doan yuh hab er place ter sleep? Doan yuh hab all de close yuh kin war? Doan yuh hab ernough wuk

ter do erroun' de house widout totin' de burden uv de men? Ah axes ebery one uv y'all, what else does yuh want? Law-a-massy, niggers, doan de men-folks alreddy make ernough fool laws? What else cu'd yuh do ef yu'd git de vote? De men hab done gone an done all dey kin fur yuh ennyway. Tuh tell de troof, mah sisters, Ah'se fred ef us wimmen shud git ter vote at de poles, den mah ole man 'ud want ter vote erroun' de house. An' y'all knows bery well dat dis hyah nigger neber wu'd 'gree ter dat.

Hon'ry Jedges, Ah has proved ter y'all dat we doesn't need de vote an' mah pardner'll prove dat dis hyah votes fur wimmen'ud be jes' as bad as votes fur men, and dat it wud be wusser. An when dese facks hab been drove fru and clinched in de hind part uv yo think box, we kin all jine in wid de rooster an declar Dat wim-min folks—ain't got—no right—ter vote—in Mis-sibam-gia.*

(*Note—This last sentence may be made to sound somewhat like a rooster's crow.)

FIRST ON THE NEGATIVE

Hon'ry Jedges, Men an' Wimmen, Misses Presedent:

Ah is hyah ter repersent de argerments uv de True Reformers an' de fus' thing Ah'll do is ter reform de argerments uv mah hon'ry enemy what hab jes' receded muh. An Ah'll begin dat procession by changing de wurds uv de tex' uv mah 'ponents' resolution ter read "Dat wimmenfolks hab got er right ter vote in Missibamgia." Dat is what us uv de Negative is hyah ter prove, an' we'll prove it exclusively an' completely, Historically, Scientifically, an' Sentimentally. Now when Ah says as how de wimmen hab got er right ter vote Ah doan mean dat we kin vote now. Dat is what we is fussin' erbout. But ef we hab got er right ter vote, an' Ah'll prove dat we hab got dat ar right, den dere ain't nuthin' lef' fur y'all female niggers ter do but jes' go home an' suade yo menfolks ter yo opinion wid de mighty argerment uv er rollin' pin.

Historically speakin' dis hyah question ain't nuthin' new. It hab been under scussion eber since man war in de

monkey state. Den de man monkeys war so wicked dat dey cuddent stand fur de good intentions uv de wimmen monkeys. So dey began ter hab all de 'lections in de tops uv de tall trees in de spring uv de year so dat de wimmenmonkeys 'ud hab ter stay down near de groun' ter min' de little monkeys. Arter erwhile de men got bolder an' tole de wimmen dey mussent eben talk erbouten politics, and de sad part is dat de po' obedient wimmen soon 'blieved dat foolishness an' quit talkin' erbout it. But now wimmen hab erwaked. Ah say dey hab erwaked, an' dey want de menfolks ter know dat dey hab erwaked. An' ternight us, de Negative, is hyah ter prove dat dis present way uv doin' bisnes is wrong, all wrong, an' nuthin' but wrong.

We bases de proof uv dis hyah recersion upon de meanin' uv right. Now jes' y'all niggers 'sider how de vote war taken from de wimmen, wuz dat right? An' ef it warn't right, warn't it wrong? Now some uv mah hon'ry 'ponents may say dat de wimmen neber had no vote, dat dey ain't equal ter de men. But Ah kin prove dat dis ain't so by de Bible story uv de Creation. Thar de Bible it say as how "Gawd created man in his own image, male an' female, created he them." Dis proves dat wimmen is equal ter man. De wurd *man* dar is used in its gemerical sense an' means *man embracin' wimmen.* Now ef de one wurd means two things, it cain't be complete widout both uv dese, an' tharfore er man's vote is only er half er vote widout er woman's vote erlongside uv it. Now some men say as how de cast de whole vote, lak as dey is man embracin' woman. But Ah 'lows as how ef er half kin stan' fur de whole, den dat half sartainly orter be de better half. An' Ah kin jes' gib y'all de history uv de whole wurld ter prove dat de women am de better half uv enny par.

Dese is facks, Hon'ry Jedges. Facks whar cain't be laffed at nor unproved. We hassent built up anny argerment hyah ternight on mere sandy theories. All de statements uv our argerments is well pressed bricks what we hab foundationed on de gret solid rock uv fack. On dese facks we hab built, on' on dis hyah rock we depend.

We is not scaered uv de floods uv ignorance nor de storms uv lies. All dat de world knows erbouten de gret noble character uv wimmenhood is supportin' our cause, and Ah kin almos' heer de glad ringin' uv de joyful bells whar will son perclaim dat de votes hab been giben ter de wimmen uv de gret state uv Missibamgia.

SECOND ON THE AFFIRMATIVE

Ladies an' Gimmen, Niggers an' Whitefolks, Men an Wimmen:

Mah pardner hab done proved ter y'all dat dar ain't no use in gibin' wimmen de right ter vote. An' now Ah'll go clar pas' dat ar stoppin' place an' prove fustly, dat dis hyah votes fur wimmen wud be as wusser'n jes' simply votes fur men. An' Ah'll also prove dat wimmen sufferage wud be er gret mistake.

In de fust place we hab too many laws now alreddy. What fur yuh want wimmen ter be er-makin' mo? Secondly wimmen is jes' lak men. Ef yuh gib dem de vote dey wud jes' go on an' let de crooked politicians fool dem. An' dese politicians wud jes' keep on runnin' de guvment enny way. Dey doan keer who votes fur dem jes' so as dey kin git 'lected. De wimmen ain't got no mo sense den de men hab. Now votin' are de bizness uv de men, but dey doan know nuthin' erbouten housewuk. Yit de wimmen uv dis hyah day an' time make out lak dey kin do dere own wuk an' de men's wuk too. Ernudder thing, y'all niggers knows jes' as well as Ah know dat wid de wimmen votin' no one but de gret big han'some yaller niggers 'ud hab er ghose uv er chance ter get 'lected ter no orfice. Now y'all also knows dat no one cain't be han'some an' 'onest at de same time, kase he'll steal time ter look at hisself in de glass, an' enny body whar will steal one thing'll steal ernudder. Ah 'lows as how stealin' stealin' no matter what is stole. Den does y'all think dat er han'some man'ud make enny better orficer den de ones we now alreddy hab?

Ah lows as how wimmen sufferage wud be ar gret mistake. Ef we wimmen git de vote all our interests wud be changed. Menfolks now respeck wimmen bekase

he doan understan' her. He doan see as how wimmen kin be satisfied ter stay at home an' min' de babies an' let him chase erroun' habin' all de fun. So den he immejiately thinks de woman are heaps better den he are an' he 'specks her 'cordinly. Now yuh jes' let de wimmen hab er vote an' de menfolks will go right straight an' lose dere 'speck fur her. An' den yuh niggers'll hab tuh stan' up in de street cyars, an' see menfolks wid dere hats on in de elevators, an' help yoselves outen buggies, an' drive yo own artermobiles. Why not jes' dress in men's close an' be done wid it, an' smoke er pipe. Jes' yuh think now, ef wimmen gits de vote, dey'll be expected ter jine de army an' fight in wahtime. Now y'all knows dat wimmen cain't fight in no army. So den de menfoks'ud make fun uv dem an' call dem cowards. As it is wimmen is not 'spozed ter fight bekase we ain't got no votes. But Hon'ry Jedges, de argerment whar we wants ter sot upon top uv all what hab been said hyah ternight are dat ef wimmen had de vote it'ud break up de home. Ef wimmen cud vote who wud do de cookin'? Who wud darn de ole man's sock's? Who wud sew on buttons? Who wud min' de chilluns? Dey wuddent be many chilluns ter min'. An who wud stay 'ligious all week while de men war c'lectin' chickens? Ansah me, Missis Presedent! Ansah me, Hon'ry Jedges! Yuh niggers down dar in front, yuh ansah me! An' yuh mah hon'ry enemies, yuh ansah me! Who wud do dese things ef de wimmen didn't? De men, uv cose. An' veribly Ah say hayh ter night dat er horrible mess dey wud make uv it too. Dey wud undeed. Jes' y'all think uv de homes dat wud be broken up. Think uv de homes what wud neber be started. Ah tells y'all Hon'ry Jedges, it's er shame. It's mo'en er shame. Ah axes y'all ter lissen ter mah sollem pleadin' hyah ternight. Ah axes y'all ter 'sider all de po orphans an' widowers what wud be neglected. Think uv de ole bachelors whar wud be made ter lib in single blessendness all dere lives while de wimmen prance erroun' wid de ballot box. It's up ter y'all Hon'ry Jedges. Dis am respectively submitted.

SECOND ON THE NEGATIVE

Hon'ry Jedges, Niggers an' Gemmens, Ladies an' Whitefolks:

Mah pardner hab done tole yuh dat Ah is ter prove dat wimmenfolks hab got er right ter vote by de gret argerments uv science an' sentiment. Scientiffically speakin' we kin claim dat wimmen is de full equals uv men. An' Ah wishes ter call yo 'tention ter de profoun' investigations uv de late Professah Darley. He showed exclusively dat de rapacity fur votin' are not suspendent on de size er stringth uv de voter, but on de quality uv de brain. Now Professah Darley furder shows as how de brain uv de wimmin folks is composed uv er better timber dan de brain uv er man. Kase dar is fo hundred paramecium vorticellos in each ounce uv wimmen's brain ergin only two hundred fur de men. What y'all Ant-Sufferyets gwine ter do wid dat argerment? Ansah muh. Yo cain't.

De argerments uv mah 'ponents puts muh in min' uv er ole man whar war arsked ef he wud vote fur ter 'bolish hangin'. He jes' rolled his cud erroun' in his mouf an' said, "Naw, suh. Hanging' war good ernouf fur mah pap. So Ah lows as how it shud be good enrouf fur mah." Now in cose we doesn't doubt dat hangin' wud be good ernouf fur sich trash as dat. But Ah kinder hopes dat dar ain't none lak dat in dis hyah house ter night. We is talkin' ter dose folks whar ain't satisfied wid dere present trials an' tribulations. We wants de wimmen whar dreams dreams uv glory an' honor an' happiness ter listen. We repeals ter all who isn't skeered uv men ter come fawward hyah ternight an' help us beard de ole he-lion in hes den an' pluck all de feathers frum hes wings.

Ah will now prove Sentimentally dat de wimmen folks hab got er right ter vote. Y'all niggers jes' nottis dose pretty black gals, and dose pretty yaller gals. Wud yuh young men dar tell dem dat dey isn't yo full equals. An' ef dey is yo equals, hassent dey de same right ter vote dat yuh has yoself. But dis hyah question it say as

how wimmen dey ain't got no right ter vote, an' Ah lows as how dat question it am er unqualified, prevaricatin', inexplicable falsifier. Ah claims dat de wimmen hab got er right ter vote.

Mah 'ponents talk erbouten breakin' up homes lak dey ain't got no sense. It doan take but er few minnits ter vote. Dey say dat votin' is de man's business. Dat ain't so. De man's bizness are ter wuk fur er livin', an' de wimmen's bizness are ter take keer uv de home. Now ef de man kin leab his bizness long ernouf ter vote, den de wimmen kin do de same.

Hon'ry Jedges, we wimmin isn't arskin' fur no special privileges. We jes' wants ter vote jes' lak de men. Ef some wimmen doan want ter vote dat is dere bizness, but ef some uv dem want ter vote, ef dey hab er right ter vote, an' ef yuh hab de power to gib dem de vote, den it is wrong ef y'all doan gib it to dem. Let de wimmen larn ter vote lak de men hab larned, an' soon dey will all be bettah 'pared fur de sacred dooties uv dere high callin' uv wifehood, motherhood, an' citizenship.

Yuh men may jes' as well rise ter dis hyah sollem 'casion, an' do what hab alreddy proved itself yo dooty. Dis hyah movement hab alreddy been stamped wid de sign uv de times. Alreddy hab y'all men seed de han'-ritin' on de wall. An' now in Missibamgia, de *Mene Mene Hekalled Erparson* whar Belshazzar seed, reads thusly: *"Behole de Wimmen uv termorrer swimmin' on er risin' tide uv votes fur wimmen."* Y'all men may as well fall in line. De nex' Declaration uv Independence will hab dat one gret line changed ter read: "We hole dese troofs ter be self evident, dat men *an' wimmen* were created equal, an' possessed uv sartain inextricable rights among which de foremost is, life, liberty, votes fur wimmen, an' de pursuit uv happiness." Men uv Missibamgia will y'all deny wimmen dis hyah right. Wake up wimmen uv Missibamgia, arsk an' it shall be given unter yuh.

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